[ANARTS - Australian National Amateur Radio Teletype Society]

A.N.A.R.T.S. NEWS 785 14/11/93

SUNDAY BROADCAST SCHEDULES.

3.545 mhz	0930 utc	VK2BQS (Jim)	
7.045 mhz -3	0030 utc	VK2CTD (COL)	
14.070 mhz (amtor/fec)	0030 utc	No operator available	
14.091 mhz	0030 utc	VK2BQS (JIM)	
146.675 mhz	0030/0930 utc	VK2JPA (PAT)	
144.850 mhz (ax25 bbs)		VK2JPA AT VK2RWI	
146.675 mhz (rtty mmbbs/repeater)		VK2RTY	

Views expressed in this news bulletin are not necessarily those of the Broadcast Officer, the Relay Officers, or of the Society.

Taming static crashes on the low bands

One of the major problems of RTTY contesting on the low bands is static crashes. Lightning storms at various locations around the world create most of the QRN that prevails on the low bands. These pulse-like, randomly spaced wide band signals are killers of digital signals. They are natures spark transmitters. Not only do they clobber the digital data codea, they also cause shifting of letters into figures and eventually into garbage.

Here are some ideas that can improve digital reception on the low bands:

1. Turn down the receivers RF gain control so that only an occasional static crash kicks the S meter. Then increase the audio gain control to compensate for the signal level needed to drive the TNC. Whatever AGC time constant is left will be faster than before, which is good. (Always use AGC FAST on RTTY, rather than AGC OFF. Some AGC is better than none, as far as your ears are concerned. Loud static crashes are not the only noise or clicks that will suddenly blast your ears. Slow AGC will actually lengthen the statics pulse duration fed to the TNC and will make things much worse.

2. Using the RF attenuator on your receiver, insert 10 Db of RF attenuation on 40 or 80M. Then compensate for the TNC signal input loss by increasing the audio gain control. The attenuator reduces the input sensitivity (not the RF gain). The advantage here is that you help prevent static and noise from actually entering the receivers RF input circuit. This desensitization will also reduce local noise pickup (computer noise, monitor flyback oscillator radiation, TV flyback noise, etc.) because if the coax feedline does not have a good match to the antenna, it will also pick up local manmade noise along with the static.

3. For quieter reception, consider using receiving antenna configurations that have a shorted DC path, such as folded dipoles or closed loops. They will help minimize rain and snow static. Receiving antennas should be located as far away from your transmitting antenna as practical, and should be oriented for minimum pickup from your transmitting antenna. Heights of 10 or 15 feet are quite ok. They should not be vertically polarised, and should be placed away from man-made noisemakers.

Readable digital signals under heavy static conditions is our goal. If you can't read them, you can't work them. So ... what good is antenna gain for receiving when static crashes drown out the desired signal? The need IS for good signal-to-noise ratio -- an absolutely crucial requirement in digital reception. When you make the signal weak, and you make the interference weaker, then you have gained in readability. And it is truly amazing how weak an RTTY signal can be and still be copied. It actuallly rivals CW in that respect, except that your brain does none of the work.

De Rich N6GG

Reprinted from The RTTY Digital Journal October 1993

WAE RTTY Contest rules part 3

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to highest scorer of the different classifications in each country (a reasonable score provided). Continental leaders will receive a plaque. Each participant with at least half the score of the continental leader will also receive a certificate.

Logs and summary: Use separate logsheets for each band. Indicate clearly all band changes. Duplicate contacts must be clearly marked in the log. If more than 100 stations have been worked on a band, a separate dupe sheet is required.

(Summary sheet, logsheets, dupesheets, and QTC records sheets may be copied from the RTTY Contesters Guide). NOTE: Logs violating these rules can be regarded as checklogs.

Deadline: All entries must be received by December 15, 1993. Mail to:

WAEDC CONTEST COMMITTEE
PO BOX 1328
D-8950 KAUFBEUREN
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Good contesting

IPS weekly report

5 November - 11 November 1993

Issue no.: 46

Date of issue: 12 November 1993

Date	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
10cm	96	97	95	92	90	90	89
A	28	28	20	15	10	12	(06 estimated)
T	-7	61	46	21	38	39	52

Summary of activity

Solar activity was very low 5th to 10th November, and low on 11th.

The geomagnetic field at Learmonth (WA) was unsettled to active 5th-6th, with a short period of minor storm levels on 6th. The field was quiet to unsettled 7th-10th, with brief active levels on 7th, and quiet on 11th.

Ionospheric F2 critical frequencies at Sydney were mostly near predicted values except for brief depressed periods of up to 30 per cent on 5th, and 20 per cent on 8th. Spread F was observed on 5th, 7th-8th, and brief sporadic E observed over the period 5th-9th November.

Forecast for the next week (12 - 18 November)

Solar : Low.

Geomagnetic: Quiet with possible osolated active levels on 18th.

Ionospheric: Near predicted monthly values to 20 per cent depressed.

Courtesy of IPS Radio and Space Services

VK2SG RTTY DX NOTES 5 NOV.'93

VK2SG RTTY DX NOTES FOR WEEKENDING NOV. 5, 1993 (BID RTDX1105)

LOOKING AT THE REPORTS BEING RECEIVED, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE BANDS ARE GOING THROUGH A CHANGE. SOLAR FLUX HAS BEEN QUITE LOW AND THE FORECAST ARE GIVING FLUX BELOW 90 FOR SEVERAL DAYS. AS RESULT OF THIS SITUATION TOGETHER WITH THE CQWW SSB CONTEST OF LAST WEEK, WE HAD GENERAL POOR ACTIVITY ON RTTY.

OUR INFORMATION THIS WEEK CAME FROM: ZS5S, 9X5LJ, W2JGR, WB2CJL, WA1MPB, I5ICY, I5IGQ, IK1HSR, F8XT, SP5AA AND NJ0M NODE OF THE TWIN CITIES DX PACKETCLUSTER. THANK YOU ALL FOR THE CONTRIBUTION.

BANDPASS:

FRIDAY 29

0728-14087 9H1ET	0732-14083 UN7LR
1158-14083 HP1XPM	1809-21085 CU1AC QSL TO W2FXA
2031-14084 ZS4KK/ZS9 QSL TO ZS4NS	
2034-14081 NL7VX	2036-14085 T46RR SPECIAL PFX
2110-14090 FM5GN	FOR CWWW CONTEST

SATURDAY 30

0744-14081 P29BT	0828-21073 J28BM ARQ
0830-14087 OM3CPS	0831-14087 YL2KF
0957-21086 CU1AC	1030-21084 ED2FCS
1414-21081 TR8MD QSL F6FNU	1446-14087 EA6MQ
1548-14085 GW0KYT	

SUNDAY 31

1341-21089 UT5RP	1557-21085 GI3KVD
1613-21085 EA6VS	1624-21086 IS0CDS
1629-28084 CX6AT	1758-21082 5N/DF8QB

MONDAY 1

0717-14085 YL2FZ	1403-21082 OM2CPS

1403-14084 UN5PR 1423-14085 UJ8JCQ
1535-21086 CU1AC 1640-21084 HJ6SQQ
2340-14087 5N/DF8QB QSL HOME CBA

TUESDAY 2
0032-14087 5N/DF8QB 0038-14087 5R8DG
1118-14085 9H1ET 1329-14083 LY1DD
1430-14093 OH4BB 1716-21089 EA6QK
2224-14089 HK0DPA QSL BOX 0890, SAN ANDRES I., COLOMBIA
2236-14089 HC6IM 2301-14085 J88BS
2305-14089 XE1/JA1QXY 2326-14086 CO6RR

WEDNESDAY 3
0623-14083 RW3PF 1510-14082 EA6PZ
1627-14086 LY1DD 1722-14086 FR5GS
1817-14085 ET3SID 1835-14086 RT4UA

THURSDAY 4
0835-14084 UW9CC 1411-14086 CN8BX ARQ
1415-14073 9K2KA ARQ

NOTES OF INTEREST:

WAE CONTEST. I REMIND YOU THIS CONTEST SPONSORED BY DEUTSCHER ARC (GERMANY) WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 1200 UTC SATURDAY 13 TO 2400 UTC SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER (36 HOURS). FOR DETAILS SEE THE RTTY JOURNAL PAGE. 7 SEPT. 93 ISSUE, AND 783, 784 and 785 ANARTS NEWS.

RTTY HONOR ROLL. DXAC IS BRINGING UP A VOTE TO RECOGNIZE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 'RTTY DXCC' STATUS WITH ENDORSEMENTS. MORE INFO NEXT WEEK. (AVAILABLE IN AUSTRALIA FOR MANY YEARS. ANARTS ED.)

CROZET, FT4. IT IS REPORTED FROM JEAN, F8XT THAT CHRISTIAN FT4WD WILL BE LEAVING THIS WEEK.

GILBERTO, IK1HSR INFORMS THAT IK3HHX IS NO MORE QSL MANAGER FOR RJ7JYZ SINCE APRIL '93. FURTHERMORE HE IS AT DISPOSAL FOR THOSE DX THAT NEED A MANAGER, INCLUDING QSLS PRINTING CAPABILITY.

SEND YOUR BANDPASS AND NOTES FOR NEXT WEEK TO BOB, WB2CJL AT W5KSI.#NOLA.LA.USA.NA OR ZS5S.ZAF.AF OR I5FLN.ITA.EU.

GL DE (DX2) LUCIANO, I5FLN AT ZS5S.ZAF.AF

Coming events

November 13th-14th WAE RTTY Contest

December 3rd ANARTS meeting

Society information

The Society may be contacted at : PO Box 860, Crows Nest 2065 Australia, for such matters as membership and general enquiries. Enquiries can also be made by packet to the President (Col) VK2CTD, or the Secretary (Pat) VK2JPA @ VK2RWI

News items may be sent to Broadcast Officer PO Box 60

Blacktown 2148 Australia, or by packet to VK2JPA @ VK2RWI.

The Internet address for the Broadcast Officer is :

       patl@extro.ucc.su.oz.au

The Society welcomes news items on any digital subjects from
anywhere in the broadcast footprint. We are looking forward to
news from your areas to let other amateurs know what you are
doing in the hobby. Hope to hear from you.

73s de Pat VK2JPA Broadcast Officer

That concludes ANARTS broadcast 785 14/11/93.
Inserted by VK2BQS (Jim) Vice President ANARTS.
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Dave Horsfall (VK2KFU)   VK2KFU @ VK2RWI.NSW.AUS.OC   PGP 2.3
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